
Introduced Version

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring Bishop Woodie White
on the occasion of his retirement.

Miller

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on

20042515

2004

SC 2015/DI 84+



SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring Bishop Woodie White on the occasion of his retirement.

Whereas, On August 31, 2004, Bishop Woodie White will retire as Bishop of the Indiana Area of the United Methodist Church, a position he has held since 1992;

Whereas, Bishop White was the first black man to be named Bishop of the Indiana Area of the United Methodist Church;

Whereas, Bishop White has had a career of "firsts";

Whereas, In 1963, Bishop White became the first black pastor of the East Grand Boulevard United Methodist Church, a predominantly white United Methodist church in Detroit, Michigan;

Whereas, In 1967, Bishop White became the first black person to hold the position of urban missionary for the United Methodist Church in Detroit;

Whereas, In 1969, Bishop White became the first black person to be named the general secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race for the United Methodist Church;

Whereas, In 1984, Bishop White was the first black man to become Bishop of Illinois;



Whereas, The oldest child of a beautician and a retail clerk, Bishop White grew up in a section of New York City known as Harlem;

Whereas, Through hard work and dedication, Bishop White escaped the violence and poverty that was prevalent in Harlem and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Paine College in Georgia and a Master of Divinity degree from Boston University in Massachusetts;

Whereas, Originally planning to become a lawyer, Bishop White's plans were changed one winter morning in 1954 after he entered a church and prayed for guidance;

Whereas, Bishop White was no longer unsure of his future and knew exactly what he was meant to do;

Whereas, Bishop White has been actively involved in the civil rights movement all his life;

Whereas, In 1963, Bishop White traveled to Mississippi during the civil rights movement and was arrested, along with his friend Ed King and a white minister, while attempting to enter a white church;

Whereas, In 1967, Bishop White and another white minister walked the streets of Detroit during a race riot in an attempt to bring peace to the area;

Whereas, Throughout his career, Bishop White has focused on two major challenges: reversing the church's declining membership and improving race relations; and

Whereas, Bishop White has been widely known, deeply loved, and greatly admired for his leadership and dedication to the improvement of race relations in the church and his commitment to church spiritual and numerical growth; he will also be remembered for his deep concern for people: Therefore,



*Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly
of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:*

1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly expresses its deeply
2 felt gratitude to Bishop White for his dedication and devotion to the
3 members of the United Methodist Church and all of mankind. We wish
4 Bishop White happiness in his retirement and continued success in his
5 life.

6 SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution be transmitted by the
7 Secretary of the Senate to Bishop Woodie White and his family.

